



March 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Lexington City Schools is committed to providing at-home learning experiences for all students during the extended school closure due to COVID-19. As a result, our staff has created an At-Home Learning Plan to support students and parents/guardians with continued learning opportunities through the end of the school year. Students should continue to work on their current learning packets and access the additional online resources offered as supplemental materials through this Friday, April 3rd. Next week, April 6th-10th, is Spring Break, and we encourage this to be a “work-free” week for students (and families). As always, we hope students will spend time reading each and every day.

LCS is in the process of developing an **At-Home Learning** page on our website at www.lexedu.org. This week, our teachers and instructional staff will begin designing bi-weekly at-home learning plans that will expose your student to the untaught curriculum from this semester, as well as offer review and practice opportunities to continue prior learning. If your student is enrolled in a high school credit course (Foreign Language, World History, or Algebra I), he/she will have at-home learning and support to finish the course by the end of the school year.

New at-home learning plans will be available to students and parents/guardians beginning the week of April 13th, with the site going “live” on Friday, April 10th. The At-Home Learning page on our website will connect you with bi-weekly learning plans, activities, and resources for each grade level. Teachers will update the learning plans and resources to continue through the end of the school year. Please see details about when you may pick up your student’s personal belongings and packets (if required) from school in the FAQ document included with this letter.

This weekend, our schools distributed an At-Home Learning Survey for all students in K-8. During the week, our teachers will be reaching out to check in and to make sure we have this information for your child. We plan to use this data to help us identify students who may need additional support to be successful with our at-home learning plan. Students and parents/guardians may email teachers, counselors, and administration for any educational assistance during the extended school closure. Our teachers and staff will be reaching out on a regular basis to check in on your student.

On the next two pages, you will find some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and information. Please be on the outlook for more information coming soon from your child’s homeroom or first period teacher. We truly appreciate your support in continuing instruction at home during our time away from school. Your children are important to us, and we miss them. Please take care and know we are thinking of you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Walters
Division Superintendent



SCHOOL CLOSURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Will we have to make up days missed due to the COVID-19 school closure? The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will be applying for a waiver that will forgive all missed days. At this time, we do not plan to add days on to this year's calendar or modify next year's calendar.

Will SOL testing be cancelled? The VDOE is submitting a state-wide waiver to the US Department of Education to waive all state and federal testing requirements. We anticipate that SOL testing will be cancelled for this school year.

Will my child be promoted to the next grade? If your child was on track for successful completion of the school year at the end of the third quarter when schools were closed (March 13), he/she will be promoted to the next grade. If you have had a conference with your child's teacher about possible retention, please reach out to the school for an update.

When will I be able to pick up my student's personal belongings and school supplies? Student personal belongings and school supplies may be picked up at each school in a drive-by system from 11:00AM-1:00PM on the following dates: Monday, April 13th, Tuesday, April 14th, and Wednesday, April 15th. If you are unable to pick up your child's belongings at these times, please contact your school's main office to make arrangements for another time.

When can I pick up at-home learning materials for my child if I can't access them online? If your teacher is aware that you need to pick up materials from school for at-home learning, you may pick up on the same day/time that you come to school to collect your student's personal belongings.

What if my child has an IEP or 504 plan? Your child's case manager will be in touch with you to discuss student supports during the remainder of the year while schools are closed. Your child's educational team will be working with you to make sure your student is supported.

Will IEP and eligibility meetings still occur as scheduled? Your child's case manager or an administrator will be contacting you to discuss alternate meeting formats for these meetings. In cases where assessments for eligibility consideration were not yet completed before schools closed, we will be in touch with you to determine next steps.

What if my child receives English Language services? Your child's EL teacher will stay in contact with you to make sure your child is making progress and supported during the school closure.

What about grading? Our school division is following recommendations from the VDOE that work completed at home not be graded. The one exception to this is if your child is enrolled in World History or Algebra I. In these courses, the teacher may assign a final assessment or assignment to measure mastery of fourth quarter content in order to award a locally verified credit for the course. For all other courses, your child's teacher will be in regular contact to make sure your student is making satisfactory progress with his/her learning in each content area.



SCHOOL CLOSURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What if my child needs help with at-home learning tasks? Our teachers will be contacting families regularly to check in, but parents/guardians and students are encouraged to email teachers, principals, and counselors for assistance. If you cannot reach your child's teacher by email, please call the school office so we can put them in touch with you.

Will we have an Eighth Grade Graduation and Fifth Grade Farewell? Our principals and division administrators are looking at options for these student celebration events. We will have more information closer to the end of the school year or when restrictions for the number of people in a gathering are lifted.

Are the school meals being served at LDMS free for all students? Yes, we are offering several days of drive-by meals distribution each week. Bagged breakfast and lunch is available for any child under the age of 18. Please see our Facebook page or website for more information.

What about Kindergarten Registration for my child? Please go to the HWES webpage at www.lexedu.org for more information and to complete the fillable forms to submit electronically. More information will be announced at a later date.

Whom should I contact if I have additional questions? While our team is still working on logistics for continuing educational services through the end of the school year, please feel free to contact your child's principal, Jason White, or Rebecca Walters at the School Board Office for any questions you may have. We will do our best to help.